

ABSTRACT

A system for transmitting and receiving control data in a TDM communications network includes a single master TDM multiplexor and one or more slave TDM multiplexors. The master station stimulates the one or more slave stations, and only one station can transmit control data at any given time. Both slave and master TDM multiplexors include (i) a receiver component for extracting control data from the TDM signal and passing this control data to a control processor; (ii) a transmitter component for inserting control data from a control processor into the TDM signal; and (iii) a bridging component for passing control data along to the next TDM multiplexor without the need for control processor intervention. The system allows a single node in the network to communicate with and control all the nodes in the network. The system can control other TDM sub-networks using secondary communication links.

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